

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY P:DNEWSOM:CHG
APPROVED BY P - MR NEWSOM
NEA - MR MIKLOS
S/S-O - TOM MARTIN

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P 272359Z JUL 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
WHITE HOUSE 0485

S E C R E T STATE 190561

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PERP, MNUC, PK, FR, US

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING

1. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN IN LUNCHEON MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM JULY 26 SHOWED FULL AWARENESS OF CURRENT STATUS OF FRENCH-PAKISTANI EXCHANGES ON NUCLEAR REPROCESSING. HE MADE CLEAR HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT PAKISTAN HAS NOT YET FULLY DECIDED HOW TO REACT OTHER THAN BY SENDING LETTER TO PRESIDENT GISCARD.

2. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION HE SAID THAT ONE ASPECT WHICH DISTURBED GOP WAS SUGGESTION THAT U.S. WOULD, IN ADDITION TO FACT OF CANCELLATION, WANT PAKISTAN SECRET

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TO STATE IN WRITING THAT IT WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE REPROCESSING IN THE FUTURE. HE SAID THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE QUOTE RUBBING PAKISTAN'S NOSE IN THE DIRT. UNQUOTE. HE ASKED, IN THE EVENT THAT FINAL FRENCH DECISION IS NOT TO PROCEED WITH THE REPROCESSING PLANT, WHETHER THIS FACT ALONE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO SATISFY THE U.S.

3. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS,

STATING THAT ALL THAT THE U.S. REQUIRED WAS TO BE INFORMED THAT THE FRENCH PROJECT WAS CANCELLED. HE CONJECTURED THAT HE MAY HAVE LEFT THIS IMPRESSION BECAUSE IN HIS PROPOSALS BEFORE THE PAKISTANI DISCUSSIONS WITH JACOMET, HE HAD SUGGESTED A FORMULA INVOLVING A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUSPENSION AND PRIVATE ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER REPROCESSING. THERE HAD BEEN NO SUGGESTION THAT SUCH ASSURANCES WOULD BE REQUIRED IF THE FRENCH PROJECT WAS CANCELLED. AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN SAID HE WOULD CLARIFY THIS WITH HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO MENTIONED THE PAKISTANI FEELING THAT THE FRENCH HAD MADE THEIR DECISION UNDER AMERICAN PRESSURE AND WITH AMERICAN COLLUSION. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THIS PAKISTANI FEELING BUT ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN ONE MADE BY FRANCE ENTIRELY ON ITS OWN. THE U.S. HAD INFORMED FRANCE OF ITS CONCERN OVER THE REPROCESSING PLANT BUT THE DECISION WAS THAT OF FRANCE. NEWSOM ADDED THAT HE HONESTLY HAD NOT KNOWN EXACTLY WHAT MESSAGE JACOMET WOULD DELIVER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN BEFORE HIS
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OWN VISIT TO ISLAMABAD.

5. AS YOU HAVE POINTED OUT TO SHAHNAWAZ (ISLAMABAD 6960) WE WOULD WELCOME PRIVATE ASSURANCES BY PAKS THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO BUILD THEIR OWN PLANT. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT INTEND AT THIS POINT TO LAY THIS DOWN AS A CONDITION. IF THE QUESTION ARISES, POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF YAQUB-KHAN'S REPORT ON HIS LUNCHEON MEETING WITH NEWSOM, YOU MAY CLARIFY THIS POINT.

6. FYI: AT PRC MEETING 27 JULY
NEWSOM MADE POINT THAT, AFTER CONSULTING WITH CONGRESS, WE SHOULD RENEW OUR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION WITH PAKISTAN, EXPLICITLY NOTING THAT ITS CONTINUATION IS BASED ON OUR CLEAR ASSUMPTION THE GOP WILL NOT DEVELOP A REPROCESSING CAPABILITY. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE GOP CONFIRMATION OF THIS BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEAR THAT OUR ASSISTANCE WOULD TERMINATE IF IT BECAME CLEAR SUCH A REPROCESSING CAPABILITY WAS BEING CONSTRUCTED.
END FYI.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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